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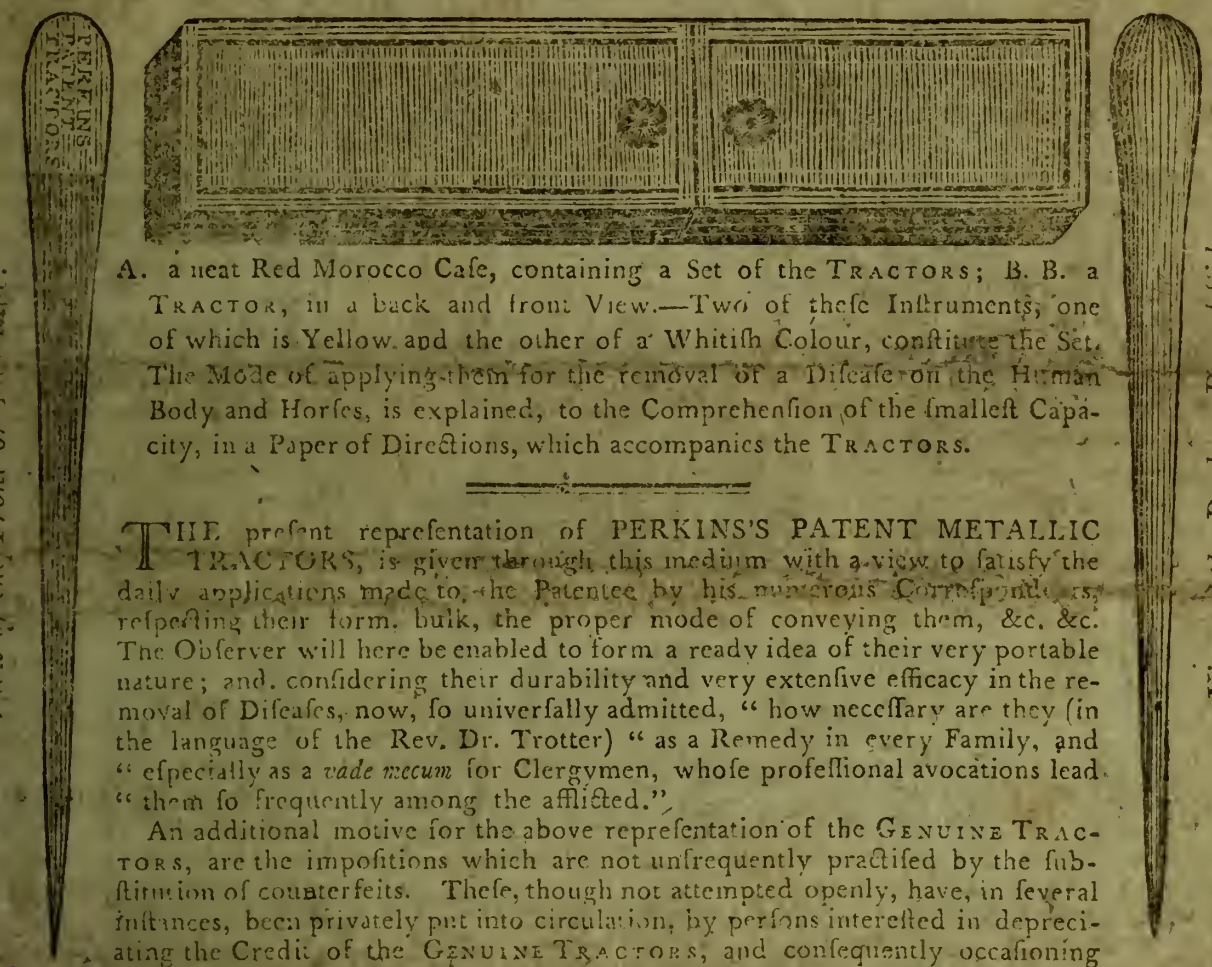
PERKINS'S PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS.

B. A. B.



A. a neat Red Morocco Case, containing a Set of the TRACTORS; B. B. a TRACTOR, in a back and front View.—Two of these Instruments, one of which is Yellow and the other of a Whitish Colour, constitute the Set. The Mode of applying them for the removal of a Disease on the Human Body and Horses, is explained, to the Comprehension of the smallest Capacity, in a Paper of Directions, which accompanies the TRACTORS.

THE present representation of PERKINS'S PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS, is given through this medium with a view to satisfy the daily applications made to the Patentee by his numerous Correspondents, respecting their form, bulk, the proper mode of conveying them, &c. &c. The Observer will here be enabled to form a ready idea of their very portable nature; and, considering their durability and very extensive efficacy in the removal of Diseases, now, so universally admitted, "how necessary are they (in the language of the Rev. Dr. Trotter) "as a Remedy in every Family, and "especially as a *vade mecum* for Clergymen, whose professional avocations lead "them so frequently among the afflicted."

An additional motive for the above representation of the GENUINE TRACTORS, are the impositions which are not unfrequently practised by the substitution of counterfeits. These, though not attempted openly, have, in several instances, been privately put into circulation, by persons interested in depreciating the Credit of the GENUINE TRACTORS, and consequently occasioning their disuse. As no benefit would be derived from such spurious Imitations, the unsuspecting Patient, it has been supposed, would be satisfied of the inefficacy of the Metallic Practice. Such artifices, while they infringe on the right of the Patentee, at the same time, defraud the Public; and he must therefore not be thought unreasonably severe in determining to employ the means the Law affords for the prevention of such abuses in future. As innocent artificers and tradesmen, from not knowing the nature of his Patent, which secures every possible external application of the Metallic Influence in the removal of Diseases, may be led into a violation of the law, by making something of a different shape, &c. it is right to inform them that they are equally liable to damages with their employers. The following is an Extract from his Patent, on which is stamped the Great Seal of England.

"We do strictly recommend that no person or persons, during the continuance of this our Letters Patent [fourteen years] either directly or indirectly, make, use, or put in practice the said "invention, or any part of the same, or otherwise counterfeit, imitate, or resemble, or shall make "or cause to be made any addition thereto, or subtraction from the same, without the direct consent and agreement of the said BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, his heirs, assigns, &c. in writing, "under his or their hands and seal, upon such pains and penalties as may be justly inflicted upon "such offenders, for their contempt of this our Royal Command."

To guard against Impositions applicants will please to observe that every *genuine* set of Tractors is stamped with the words PERKINS PATENT TRACTORS; and, which will be the most sure means of detecting frauds, to the printed Directions for their use, which accompany them, is subjoined a Receipt, signed "BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS." in the hand-writing of the Patentee. To counterfeit this, it is unnecessary to add, is Felony.

The TRACTORS have been found a safe, speedy, and effectual Remedy in the following Disorders;

Acute and Chronic Rheumatism, including Lumbago and Sciatica, Gout, Sprains, Contusions, Burns, Scalds, Inflammations of the Eyes; also of the Skin, as Erysipelas and Tetters; Painful Inflammatory Tumours, as Biles and Whitlows; Violent Spasmodic Convulsions; as Epileptic Fits, Cramp and Locked Jaw; Pleurisy: Stings and Bites of Venomous Insects, Fluor Albus; Pains in the Head, Face, Teeth, Ears, Breast, Side, Back, Limbs, and all analogous Diseases of Horses.

In proof of the Efficacy of the Tractors in these Complaints there have been published, by the Patentee, during the last three years, four different works, in which have been presented several thousand Cures, communicated by characters of the highest respectability. The present limits do not conveniently admit of the titles of only the two last of these, which are given, *gratis*, to the purchasers of the Tractors: one was published in January, 1800, and entitled,

"*The Efficacy of Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors, in Topical Diseases of the Human Body and Animals; exemplified by 250 Cases from the first Literary Characters in Europe and America. Sold, price* 1s. *by J. Johnson, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London.*"

The other work above alluded to, which was published in April, 1801, has the following Title:

"*Cases of successful Practice with Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors, communicated since January, 1800, the Date of the former Publication, by many Scientific Characters. Sold, price* 1s. *as above.*"

As these two books are entirely distinct with respect to their contents (the Patentee never publishing one case twice) Enquirers are respectfully referred to them for a full account of the merits and pretensions of the Patent Metallic Tractors. In both of them are exposed to public view the curious artifices of a medical cabal at Bath, which aimed to propagate an opinion that the Tractors cured Diseases by operating on the Imagination of the Patient! It will be readily conceived how effectually that ridiculous and absurd attempt was exploded, when it is known that the Patentee, in reply, immediately adduced several hundred cures of the most unequivocal kind, by the Tractors, on Infants and Horses, and other Subjects, where. from the nature of the Cases, Imagination must have been equally dead and inactive. Among the Vouchers, whose names are adduced in his two last Publications, are eight Professors in four Universities in the various branches, as follows:—three of Natural Philosophy; four of Medicine; one of Natural History. To these may be added nineteen regular Physicians; seventeen Surgeons; twenty Clergymen, ten of whom are Doctors in Divinity, and many other characters of equal respectability.

Having received within the last few weeks, since the publication of his book in April, 1801, above two hundred cases from different parts of Great Britain, the Patentee will present abstracts of one or two in this place. The bare perusal of these few on Horses, Infants, &c. will shew how ridiculous must persons appear who endeavour to persuade the Public that the Tractors cure Diseases, by an operation on the Imagination.

NEW CASES, published in August, 1801.

THE following extract of a letter is kindly permitted to be inserted in this place.

London, Hertford-Street, May 25th, 1801.

"LORD RIVERS presents his compliments to Mr. Perkins, and requests he will send by the bearer a set of his Metallic Tractors, which he is desirous of purchasing in addition to those he has already had, and which he constantly leaves with his groom; they having been of the greatest use in his stables."

A. PINCKE, Esq. of Sharstead, Kent; in a letter of July 1st, 1801, states as follows.

"CASE.—*Violent Contusions on a Horse.*—In August last, a very valuable horse of mine, through an accident, in a field, dashed his head and the point of his right shoulder against a large tree, when running at his utmost speed. The right shoulder had been forced back with such violence that it appeared greatly let down below its proper position; and, from the violence of the contusion, presented a shocking spectacle. Having your Tractors in my possession, I determined to try their efficacy, more out of curiosity and compassion than from any expectation of future service. A Farrier was sent for, merely to let out the extravasated blood that had lodged near the point of the shoulder; and this was all the assistance the animal had except from the Tractors. These were applied four or five times a day, for about half an hour each time. Their effect in diminishing the pain was very evident. He looked more cheerful after their use, and had a good appetite. We continued them till he was enabled to walk tolerably well, and in a month more could gallop about the field for his diversion. Although he is still somewhat lame, he undoubtedly feels little if any pain, being uncommonly playful, and having been frequently used in husbandry without the least increase of his lameness. The preservation of this horse is entirely to be attributed to the effects of the Tractors. One circumstance was very remarkable, and which, at least, demonstrated their influence. After they had been used upon him some time, he would show an evident shyness whenever the servant came near him to repeat the operation, till he became so susceptible of them that he would rear up or offer to lie down as often as the Tractors approached him."

THE REV. J. WALTON, of Sutton, Cross-Hills, in Craven, Yorkshire, August 14th, 1801, favored the Patentee with an extract of his notes taken during a series of experiments with the Tractors. Besides important cures of Rheumatism, Contraction, Wound from a Rusty Nail, Burn, Head-Ach, Sprain on the Pastern of a Horse, &c. &c. is the following:—

"CASE.—*Violent Sprain and Lameness of a Horse.*—A horse belonging to Mr. SLACK, Master of the White Bear, a respectable Inn, at Cross Hills, received a sprain of the back sinews of the near fore leg, which was, in consequence, lame and exceedingly swelled, from above the knee down to the foot. A farrier had tried means without success. I then applied the Tractors three times in the course of the day, which, by evening, lessened the swelling, and removed in part, the lameness. In three days that swelling was entirely gone. I then however discovered that the principal vein in the breast, which leads down the leg, was much distended and hard, like a very thick stiff cord. The drawing of the Tractors over this vein produced a great effect, as the poor animal trembled exceedingly. Seeing so extraordinary an influence, I determined on trying if it would be observable also in other substances, and accordingly procured three instruments of different metals, shaped like the Tractors, and drew them alternately over the vein, in the same manner; but the horse then expressed no sensation. On trying the Tractors again the tremor instantly returned, and it was with difficulty the horse could be held. In about 40 minutes the vein was diminished in size, and considerably softer. On persevering in their use three days, the Horse was well. Mr. Slack has subscribed his name to this statement in my minute-book."

DR. J. FULLER, of Upper Brook-Street, London, with the liberality and humanity, which diſtinguiſh many others, who have retired, after a life of extenſive practice, on the 5th of June, 1801, favored the Patentee with the reſult of his Experiments, from which the following is extracted.

" I have uſed the Tractors in very numerous inſtances with great ſucceſs, and have now no heſitation to acknowledge my firmeſt confidence in their utility, among ſuch as have a pleaſure in the poſſeſſion of the means of relieving the ſufferings of their fellow-creatures."—After detailing ſeveral caſes of *Tooth-Ach*, *Swelled-Faces*, *Sprain*, and *Rheumatiſm*, he cites the following deciſive experiment: " A Lady, aged 60, whom the Tractors relieved of a *Rheumatiſm* of long ſtanding in the ſhoulder, found a great warmth during their application, and, which was extraordinary, felt the burning ſenſation continue for ſeveral days. This patient being ſo ſuſceptible, I thought her a proper ſubject on whom to try the comparative merits of the Tractors with other ſubſtances, and thereby aſcertain what concern the imagination had in the effects. I accordingly drew the points of forks, wood, &c. over the part affected, as I had before uſed the Tractors, but from neither was there produced the leaſt effect. The Tractors, however, on being applied a ſecond time, immediately occaſioned the heat, and gave exactly the ſame relief as at firſt. This experiment was made under circumſtances which rendered it very deciſive."

THE REV. J. MORTON, Vicar of Riſely, Bedfordſhire, one of the Chaplains in Ordinary to the Prince of Wales, &c. &c. in a letter of July 27th, 1801, writes, " The Tractors I had of you have fully juſtified the good opinion entertained of them.

" CASE I —*Very violent Contuſion.*—A gentleman of this village, through an accident, fell from a horſe, and received a very ſerious contuſion in his left hip. Ten ounces of blood were immediately taken from him, and, on the next morning, an opening medicine was adminiſtered: the uſual embrocations were then conſtantly uſed for ſeveral days, but with very little ſucceſs. The hip continued greatly ſwelled, very hard, with a great tenſion of the ſkin. The pain was without intermiſſion, and attended with a pungent throbbing, like that deſcribed in the formation of a fiſtula. He could neither ſit nor lie down with comfort, and his reſt had for many nights been broken. Mr. Langley, his ſurgeon, candidly declared he had no opinion that they could be uſeful here, but added, that " they could do no harm." The firſt application of them was continued 30 minutes, from the hip to the toes. The patient was in this time relieved, fell aſleep and reſted ſix hours, which was more than he had had from the time of the accident! They were uſed in all five times, in the courſe of the two following days, when the pain gradually abated; the ſwelling went down rapidly, and, at preſent, nothing remains from the accident but a little ſoreneſs."

" CASE II.—*Pain in the Face.*—Mr. LANGLEY, the ſurgeon above mentioned, was a few days after this affair attacked with a violent pain in his face. Though he had not, as he told me afterwards, much faith in the Tractors, yet he determined to try them on himſelf, which he did, and was perfectly cured in *five minutes*. He has permitted me to mention the caſe."

" CASE III.—*White Swelling* —A ſon of Mr. BORFIELD, a reſpectable farmer here, has a confirmed White Swelling on his knee. This has been attended with a great deal of pain, which has conſtantly ſubſided on the uſe of the Tractors; and although, from the diſeaſed ſtate of the bones, a cure cannot be hoped for, yet the knee has been, for ſome time paſt, very eaſy."

" CASE IV.—*Gout.*—Being myſelf, at times, ſubject to a ſevere pain in the great toe of my right foot, from a Gouty Affection, I uſe the Tractors, and the pain very ſoon and invariably goes off."

THE REV. DR. RIPPON, of Grange-Road, Southwark, London, in a note of June 1ſt, 1801, favored the Patentee with the copy of a Letter addreſſed to him from the REV. JAMES SHUTTLEWORTH, of Cowling-Hill, Yorkſhire. Among ſeveral important caſes therein are the following:

" CASE.—*Burn on an Infant.*—A child had the misfortune to get its hand burned ſo ſeverely that the part veſicated. I applied the Tractors, and in a very little time both the bliſter and inflammation diſappeared; and when I left the place the child's hand was quite well."

After ſtating the ſingular relief given to his own daughter by the Tractors, which removed a ſevere inflammation occaſioned by the froſt three years before; Mr. S. concludes, by expreſſing his high opinion of the merits of the Tractors.

MR. EDMUND BLATHWAYT, Surgeon, of Narbeth, Pembrokeſhire, in a Letter of June 1ſt, 1801, after mentioning that the Tractors had nearly been brought into diſrepute in his neighbourhood, by the artifices of *intereſted* perſons who had privately attempted to circulate counterfeits, which gave no relief, and which were impoſed on the patients as genuine, ſtates the following caſes.

" CASE I.—*Obſtinate Rheumatic Affection.*—D. MORGAN, ESQ. of Brynayun, in this County, formerly a Captain in his Majeſty's 39th Regiment, has been cured by the Tractors of an obſtinate Rheumatic Affection in the neck, with which he had been plagued, for nearly 20 years, and which had reſiſted the power of Medicine."

" CASE II.—*Pain from an Old Sprain.*—SARAH PHILLIPS, a ſervant of Mr. Morgan, was attacked with a pain and weakneſs in her arm, which ſhe attributed to a violent ſprain on that arm, about five years before. The Tractors were tried, but without any effect, when it was diſcovered, that ſhe had juſt been uſing a greaſy application to it The part was then waſhed clean, as you direct in ſuch caſes, and the Tractors again applied, when ſhe declared ſhe felt the pain go out at her fingers' ends. They were uſed but twice afterwards, and ſhe has been well ever ſince. This caſe is very ſatisfactory in regard to the action of the Tractors, independant of Imagination. The mind would as readily have been wrought upon before as after the oil was removed. Mr. Morgan will ſatisfy any one of the truth of theſe caſes, as he has authorized his name to be publiſhed from a conviction of the utility of the Tractors. I could ſend you ſeveral other caſes; but will mention them to any who chooſe to apply to me."

PERKINS's PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS.

THE REV. T. HILLYARD, of Olney, Bucks; in a letter of May 6th, 1801, states the following:

"CASE—*Very Obstinate Rheumatism.*—ELIZA HILLYARD, a child of Olney, was seized with the Rheumatism, which first took away the use of her hands and contracted her fingers. It then run up her arms and down her back into her hips, knees, and ancles, where it settled, and so deprived her of the use of her legs, that she moved only on crutches for two years.—During this time a great variety of remedies were tried without effect. She was three months in the Northampton Infirmary, where also many experiments were made, but all to no purpose. DR. KERR then advised Sea Bathing; the season, however, being late, she did not go; but tried Electricity, for a long time, without any advantage! In this hopeless state your Metallic Tractors were recommended. I had not much faith, yet was not so great an infidel as to withstand facts. I first tried them myself, in May last, upon her hands, and they proved effectual; for, in fourteen days, they removed the contraction from her fingers, and a hard callus from her knuckles! We then began their application from the hip to the toes, which drew down the complaint, and occasioned while using them, a swelling and inflammation in the great toe. This I thought a favorable symptom; and we therefore persevered in their use, twenty minutes at a time, twice a day, for three months, when she had derived so much benefit, as to be able to cast aside her crutches, and has had no occasion for them since. She runs about as active as other children, and enjoys good health."

THE REV. T. GREEN, of Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire, April 13th, 1801, stated to the Patentee the result of his extensive practice with the Tractors. Our limits admit of but a short extract.

"When your Tractors, which I purchased in October last, were conveyed to me, I was not only greatly surprised at their simple appearance, but thought it impossible that they should be of any use. An extensive trial of them, however, commenced under the influence of prejudice against them, has shewn me my mistake. I consider them an invaluable acquisition to every family, and think it but due to the public and yourself to state what I myself have witnessed."

"CASE I.—*Lumbago.*—A young man had a violent Lumbago, or Pain in his Loins. I tractored him for half an hour, from the loins to the knees, and he found the pain gradually go downwards to one knee. The next day his complaint, though trifling, was in the calf of his leg. I tractored him again twenty minutes, when he was completely cured, and has been well ever since."

"CASE II.—*Inflammation and Swelling from Chilblains.*—A woman came to me who had a foot exceedingly swelled and inflamed from a Chilblain. She could not then bend the foot, and was obliged to wear a very large shoe. The first time the Tractors were applied from the instep to the toe, she found great relief, and could easily bend the foot. The second time the Inflammation and Swelling began to subside. She required only five operations to complete the cure. It was very astonishing to see the Swelling and Inflammation follow the points of the Tractors."

To these succeed three Cases of *Rheumatism*, a *Sprain*, *Tooth-Ach*, the *removal of a Large Swelling on a Horse*, *&c.* but the limits do not admit of their insertion. Mr. Green then proceeds.—

"I am sorry to say I believe several well-meaning persons have been imposed upon by spurious Tractors, which have tended to bring the genuine ones into some disrepute. One person had tried them, to my knowledge, in a severe Rheumatism, under the idea that they were genuine, but found no benefit. I detected the fraud on examining them. He has since used your Tractors and derived great relief. Some medical gentlemen of extensive practice in my neighbourhood, I might add, have used your Tractors to good purpose. Upon the whole, I think them a most valuable Discovery; and, notwithstanding the opposition they may meet with from *interested* men, many in future times will venerate the memory of the Discoverer."

TIMOTHY CLARKSON, Esq. of Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire, May 26, 1801, writes, "I have operated, in many cases, upon my friends, and poor neighbours, among whom the Tractors have done wonders." Among several cases which he cites is the following.

"CASE.—*Rheumatism.*—A friend of mine, whose estate joins my own, was so afflicted with the Rheumatism in his back and hips that he could not go across the floor without the help of a stick. The first operation of the Tractors gave him great relief, and after three more, he was perfectly well; and the next day but one, walked 12 miles without his stick."

MR. THOMAS RAWLINS, Printer, of Andover, Hants, who with much benevolence has devoted, for some months past, hours of the day to the use of the Tractors on his poor neighbours, and others, June 8, 1801, writes; "I have not relieved less than 60 with the *Rheumatism* and 20 with *Tooth-ach*. One person, who had been severely afflicted with the Rheumatism for 7 years, had been a considerable time at Bath, and tried almost every thing which could be thought of, without effect, has been cured by the Tractors." Several other cases from Mr. Rawlins, equally important, and nearly two hundred besides, from different parts of Great Britain, are, for want of room, omitted.

THE TRACTORS, so necessary in every Family, and among Horses, may be had, with new and improved Directions for using them; rendering the mode of Application perfectly intelligible to every Capacity, for FIVE GUINEAS the Set, of BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A. M. the Patentee, in the house of the late JOHN HUNTER, Surgeon, Leicester Square; of FREDERICK SMITH, Chemist and Druggist, in the Haymarket, London; of ROBERT SHEPPARD, Merchant, Edinburgh; and of CHARLES WHITTELL, Chemist and Druggist, Chester.——Their portable Nature renders their Conveyance to any Part of Great Britain, by Coach, and even by Post, perfectly convenient. Letters (*Post paid*) enclosing their Amount in a Bill or Check, will be punctually attended to.

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